



Canal Road - Scenic Byway

# 3

## INTRINSIC QUALITIES Overview

Intrinsic qualities are the essence of a scenic byway. They are the scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological, and recreational features that are considered representative, unique, irreplaceable, or distinctly characteristic of a place. Intrinsic qualities are the resources that byway stakeholders seek to maintain, protect, enhance, interpret, and present to byway users for their education and enjoyment.

**Scenic Quality** is the heightened aesthetic experience derived from the view of natural and man-made elements of the visual environment along the byway corridor.

**Natural Quality** applies to features of the visual landscape and ecological systems that are in a relatively undisturbed state, including geological formations, landforms, water bodies, vegetation, and wildlife.

**Historic Quality** encompasses legacies of the human past that are associated with physical elements of the landscape. Historic resources reflect the actions of people who lived in previous time periods.

**Archaeological Quality** involves characteristics of the scenic byway corridor that are physical evidence of historic or prehistoric human life or activity that can be inventoried and interpreted. The byway's ruins, artifacts, structural remains, and other physical evidence, have scientific value and educate visitors, while instilling an appreciation for the past.

**Cultural Quality** is evidence and expressions of the customs and traditions of a distinct group of people. Cultural activities and features reflect a contemporary society, and may include gathering places, craft exhibits, festivals, special events, dance, music,

food, and vernacular architecture. Cultural qualities often highlight one or more significant communities and ethnic traditions.

**Recreational Quality** involves primarily outdoor recreational activities directly associated with the natural and cultural elements of the byway corridor. Both active and passive recreational activities are included.

Intrinsic qualities can have three levels of significance: "local", "regional" and "national." For the purpose of this document, a determination of level of significance for each resource is not made. Rather, each resource is described and evaluated on its own merit. This reinforces the goal of protecting resources for their inherent value, regardless of whether they are representative of local, regional or national characteristics.

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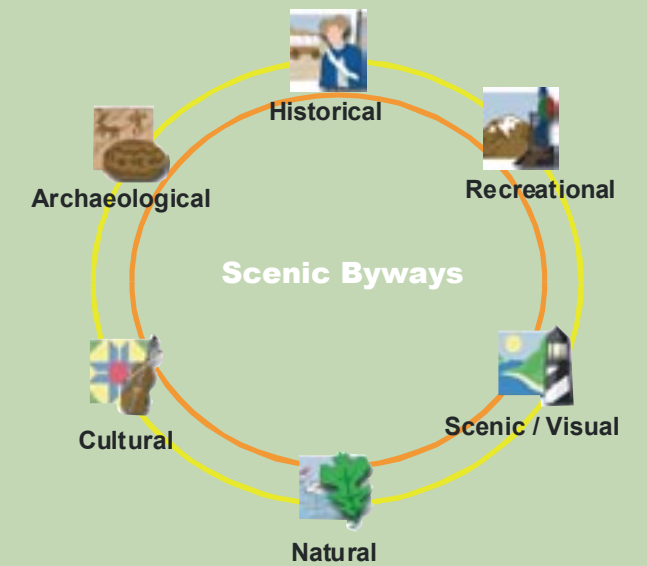


Fig. 3-1

## INTRINSIC QUALITIES